Cells; setting up of Rape Crises Intervention Centres in all the nine Police Districts; association of Women Police Officers and NGO in investigation of rape cases; setting up of three Special Courts headed by women judges; networking with Non-Governmental Organisations; deployment of staff in plain clothes at vulnerable places; starting of dedicated telephone help lines; and constitution of 'Women Mobile Team' to attend to distress calls from women on round-the-clock basis; providing counselling through the NGOs to the needy complainant; seeking help of NGOs and professionals such as social workers, doctors, psychologists, lawyers and special counsellors during the investigation of rape cases; association of NGOs to assist the victims during medical examination and for counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, Self-Defence training programme and the recently launched scheme "Parivartan" under which lady beat constables have been deployed in selected slum areas.

The Government has also taken a number of steps to prevent crime against foreign and domestic tourists which include keeping surveillance over the areas frequented by tourists including taxi/auto's leaving airports along with tourists; running of Pre-paid Fare Booths; issue of complaint cards to passengers availing taxi facility at the airports; launching of a drive to verify the character and antecedents of taxi drivers operating at Indira Gandhi International Airport and issue of Public Service Vehicle Badges to them; and taking of stringent steps to eliminate the menance of tours at the airports. In addition, keeping in view the importance of Delhi as a tourist destination, Delhi Police has launched a scheme on 6.8.2004 to help tourists including foreign tourists to overcome the problems of transport, accommodation, tourism-related information etc. Under this scheme Delhi Police has deployed Tourist Police at prominent places like IGI Airport, New Delhi Railway station, Nizamuddin Railway Station, Rajghat, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Palika Bazar, Janpath, India Gate etc.

Extortion of money by constables

†2349. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Constables of Delhi Police extort money from 'Rehdiwalas' who do their business in Delhi;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such complaints received during the last three years together with the number of Constables against whom action was taken and the number out of those who were suspended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Delhi Police during the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 15th November) received 206 complaints alleging extortion of money from 'Rehdiwala' by Constables of Delhi Police. However, the allegation in none of the complaint could be substantiated.

Dowry deaths

2350. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of dowry deaths have been reported during the last three years;

(b) in how many such cases, imprisonment has been awarded to wrong doers and the numbers of cases which are still in process/ investigation; and

(c) what stringent steps are being taken to curb the inhuman act of dowry deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The State/UT wise numbers of dowry death cases reported, persons arrested, cases charge sheeted, cases pending investigation, cases in which trial completed, cases ended in conviction and cases ended in acquittal or discharge during 2002, 2003 and 2004 are indicated in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) 'Public Order' 'Public' are State subjects. Therefore, primary responsibility of preventing and controlling atrocities on women rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has from time to time been advising the State Governments to take measures for prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of the society including measures to deal with dowry related offences.